



## Joint Animal Services Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

---

Monday, June 9, 2025

Lacey City Hall and Online

---

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Malcolm Miller, City of Lacey; Vice Chair Emily Clouse, Thurston County (remote and present after 5:32 p.m.); and Commissioner(s) Kelly Green, City of Olympia (remote); Peter Agabi, City of Tumwater (remote); Jo MacGugan, Feline Friends of Olympia; Vicky Smith, DVM, Deschutes Animal Clinic; and Mike Murphy, DVM, Thurston County Humane Society (remote).

STAFF PRESENT: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Lacey Assistant City Manager; Sarah Hock, Joint Animal Services Executive Director; Andrew Toledo, Operations Manager; Meagan McKay, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator (present after 5:44 p.m.); and Elissa Fontaine, Lacey City Clerk

3. Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

A. Approval of Agenda

B. April 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Greene moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Commissioner Agabi seconded. The motion carried.

4. Public Comment

No one registered to speak in person or remotely, and no written public comments were received.

5. Business Items

A. Shelter Stats and Field Data April/May

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

Hock presented intake data by month, species, and jurisdiction. The presentation included positive outcomes (adoption, transfer, and return to owner), trend data, and impacts on staff time. Field calls, statistics, and jurisdictional data were reviewed.

A review of the evaluation and decision-making process for animals in the shelter system was presented, including placement and decision metrics involving euthanasia. Hock highlighted resources, capacity, daily rounds, and individualized pathway planning, aiming to reduce the length of stay and increase life-saving outcomes. A committee formed of leadership, operations, field services, volunteer and community outreach, rescue/foster and veterinary care, ensures that all relevant factors are considered in decision-making involving euthanasia.

B. Volunteer Program Update

Meagan McKay, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

McKay presented an update on the Volunteer, Outreach, and Humane Education programs. The presentation included a detailed review of current and expanding programs, including Enrichment Volunteers, Champion Dog Program, the Yelm and Lacey Library Animal Allies Club, and new events including Colvin Ranch Day, Nisqually Pet Fair, and the All-American Jubilee.

C. Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Discussion

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

Hock presented the barriers to accessing veterinary care, including low-cost spay/neuter programs. The veterinary crisis is a result of rising costs of care, workforce shortages, geographic disparities, and a lack of financial assistance. There are no low-cost spay/neuter clinics in Thurston County. Discussion ensued. The Commission expressed support for staff to research low-cost spay/neuter program options, alternatives, and funding sources to bring to a future meeting.

D. Budget Amendment

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

The City of Lacey serves as the administrative agency for Joint Animal Services (JAS), and is a member of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), Labor and Industries (L&I) Retro Program, and Retro Pool. The City's experience rating increased, playing a crucial role in setting the City's L&I premium rates. An increase of \$12,900.24 from JAS is required to cover the shortage.

Commissioner Clouse moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Agabi seconded. The motion carried.

6. Director Report

A. Sarah Hock, Executive Director

Hock reported a summary of the 2025 legislative season, staff accomplishments, cruelty response volunteer and foster programs, adoption events, and the status of a potential contract for services with Mason County.

7. Adjourn

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Minutes approved August 11, 2025